

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
FOR THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of a Petition by
Peoples Natural Gas Company
and Northern Minnesota Utilities,
Divisions of UtiliCorp United, Inc.,
for Authority to Increase Natural Gas
Rates in Minnesota and to Consolidate
the Two Utilities

**FOURTH PREHEARING
ORDER**

A Prehearing Conference telephone call was held on Tuesday, February 6, commencing at 9:30 a.m.

Participating in this telephone call were representatives from the Commission (including Commissioners Johnson and Jacobs), the Applicant, the Department, and Intervenor Potlach, Otter Tail Energy Services, LPI Group and Minnesota Power.

The Applicant and the Department announced that they had reached a settlement on all issues. They were still working on the final details of a Settlement Agreement, and expected to have it ready within the next day or two. It was agreed that the document would be filed no later than Friday.

It was further agreed that another Prehearing Conference telephone call would be held on Wednesday, February 21, commencing at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of that telephone call will be to determine what issues require additional discussion or explanation, and schedule further proceedings to resolve those matters.

The February 6 conference call concluded with the Commission staff asking a number of questions of the Applicant and the Department concerning the outlines of the proposed settlement.

Based upon all the filings and proceedings herein, the Administrative Law Judge makes the following:

ORDER

That a Prehearing Conference telephone call shall be held on Wednesday, February 21, commencing at 9:00 a.m.

Dated this 7th day of February, 2001.

ALLAN W. KLEIN
Administrative Law Judge

MEMORANDUM

Persons desiring to participate in the February 21 conference call should dial **651-284-3547** and when prompted to supply the conference identification number, should enter **6012**.